

The Black Mirror News

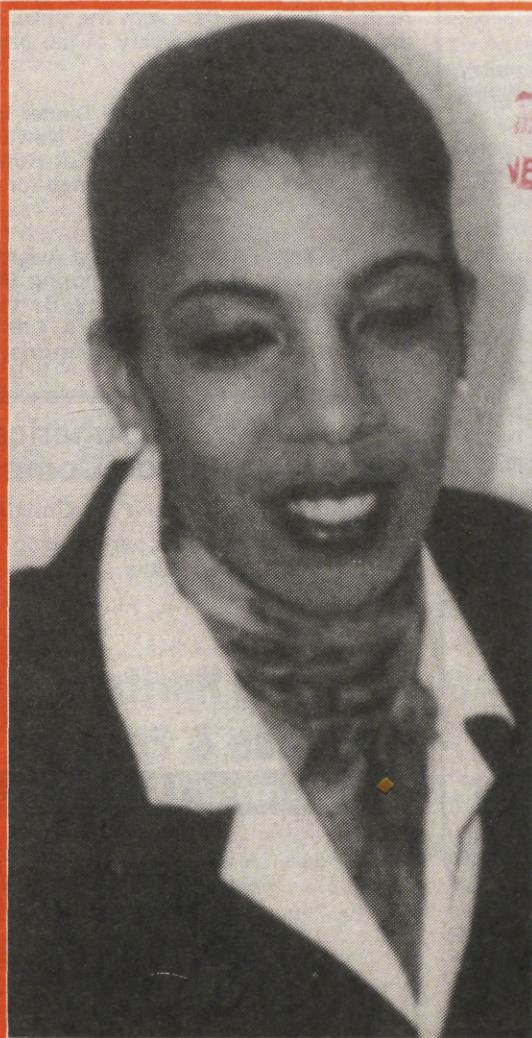
Reflections

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In This ISSUE

• PHOTOS, PHOTOS, PHOTOS...

...what's been
happening our
community

• THE SHADOW – **10** WAYS TO KNOW IF YOU'RE IN THE "GHETTO" – p. 14

On our cover...
RACQUEL ZAMBRANA is
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Hispanic market for
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Social Calendar

April 17, Sat — New Day Associates presents the
 4th Anniversary Party for Today's Black Magazine
 at Marriott Hotel, Nwk Airport.

April 24, Wed. — A Date with The Duke, celebrating
 the 100th year Anniversary of the birth of Duke
 Ellington, at the Priory.

April 29, Thurs — Testimonial Dinner in honor of
 Chief Thomas C. O'Reilly, Newark Police
 Department at the Robert Treat Hotel 50 Park
 Place, Newark, NJ Call Lt. James for ticket info
 733-7930.

April 25, Sun — Anniversary and Awards Banquet
 at Appian Way in Orange, honoring Rita Owens,
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POLLY TICKS

"HIGH CRIMES"

The Human & Civil Rights Association of New Jersey – Part 2

By Tiny Prince

As we move into the 21st century, the minority and female population is to be commended for keeping up with New Jersey politics of race and gender. Likewise, the hype of Y2K which simply means that the last 2 digit digits cannot convert to 2000 and may cause some slow downs for the global network is serious, however, one must not lose track of the goings-on now for the election year 2000.

Some of us would like to believe that because we are all human beings, all humans would treat each other as we would like to be treated. This is not true, for after you are born you have to fight for your inalienable rights for the pursuit of happiness. In the American system, legal redress is through the courts and through the electoral process. We elect individuals to represent our interests to the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches of government.

The state government of New Jersey oversees colleges, universities, state agencies and autonomous agencies of the state such as NJ Transit, NJ Sports and Exposition Authority, the New Jersey Turnpike, New Jersey Highway Authority also known as the Garden State Parkway and the Atlantic City Expressway. And of course, there is the State Police which supports the Parkway and the Turnpike Authority. All of these autonomous agencies have appointed members to the board supposedly drawn from the public to oversee the daily running of the government's business.

Who is the government? Did you know that the government is not some alien from outer space or simply buildings that occupies some corner in Trenton, or wherever? Rather they are beings put there through your vote either directly or indirectly. You, Mr. & Mrs., Miss or Ms. Public, whatever handle you choose to use are the voting public.



The recent dynamics in which Co. Carl Williams superintendent of State Police was called to be accountable for his actions was a domino effect to his direct report Attorney General Peter Veniero up to the person who appointed him. Governor Christine Whitman. Politics can be rough, however, high crimes are committed when no one is watching. Recently, Aubrey Lewis, an African American was sworn in as a commissioner to the Sports and Exposition Authority. He was there in the 1970s during the planned construction of the Meadowland sports complex. He endorsed the new arena at the sports complex over Newark or Hoboken. In this instance, the State wanted the Nets and the Devils to stay at the complex. Guess who's going to be paying for this, rather than a consortium of independent business persons which could have benefitted the people of either Newark or Hoboken? You, the public, one way or another. As a preeminent football player from Montclair, Lewis went on to become a stellar halfback at Notre Dame University. Recently, he served as commissioner to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and prior to that at the New Jersey Highway Authority, also known as the Garden State Parkway.

Mishaps or misdemeanors are committed when minorities and women have images representing their interests and they are not called to action. The theme for the Whitman administration, "many faces, one family," can easily turn into the one family with many faces, unless there are questions asked. As a voting public, it is necessary to educate one another about one's civil rights. One should keep in mind that people in Selma, Alabama still commemorate March 7, 1965 which is known as Bloody Sunday when many were clubbed and beaten on the Edmund Pettis Bridge in their march to vote. The now Congressman John Lewis was among those beaten bloody. Congress passed the Voting Rights Act on August 6, 1965 following the murder of a white mother of 5 who had come to help with the march. The high crime of today should be those of us who too easily forget the death of those who gave their lives so that we may vote. The system is not perfect, but then again, are we?



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FALLING LEAVES

JOSEPH H. COOKE,

'Mayor of Central Ave.', 89

Mr. Cooke, affectionately known as the "Mayor of Central Avenue," according to Mayor Bowser of East Orange earned the title by have an effervescent personality and panache. He was a long-time East Orange resident and member of the city's Chamber of Commerce. For nearly five decades, he sold tickets to Broadway shows, concerts and sporting events, attracting a diverse group of customers. He also owned the "Stag Shop," a popular men's haberdashery on Central Avenue. Mr. Cooke retired after his wife, Mae, died. Over the years, Mr. Cooke sponsored several of the city's youth baseball and football teams. He was active in community events until his illness made him unable to continue.

WILLIAM G. LUCAS

former Asst. Exec. Dir. of the Friendly Fuld Neighborhood Ctr and Psychologist in the Elizabeth & Newark School Systems

A consummate professional who encouraged and respected his fellow workers, he dedicated himself to the children of Newark for nearly 16 years. While receiving his second Master of Arts in Educational Psychology, he was listed in *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*.

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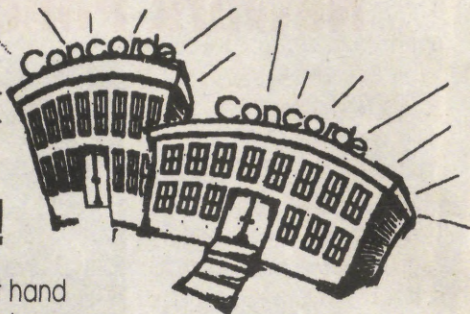
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AFTER HOURS AFTER HOURS...

Hello, out there – say, do you remember the young man who used to deliver *The After Hour News* magazine for years? Well, Lee's back with our staff... Haven't seen Shirley M. Cook around lately, she does **Catering by Design....** Donald Bradley's **Palm Sunday Breakfast** (see pages 10-11) was one of the greatest and it seems as if everyone was there, including many of the NHA staff... Altho we couldn't attend we wish **Maxine James** the happiest of birthdays and a thousand more... **Councilman President Wayne Smith** carries a great deal of the responsibility in Irvington, NJ and he has a great future– so people say... Salute goes to Senior Citizen **Bernice Roundtree**, Senior Mayor of Newark for 1999, home town star **Savion Glover** and **Yvette Glover Trio** will be featured at **Appian Way**, April 25th at 6 PM... Call photographer **Felix Middleton, Jr** at 1-201-502-4793 for "Black Mirror," pictures... Folks, are really responding to the **Concorde School of Hair Design's** offer of **\$500.00 OFF** the tuition, the offer is for first-time students only with 85% attendance throughout the entire course, the coupon is on page in this very issue!... Hey, I don't know about you, but I can't wait until next year's **St. Patrick's Day Parade in Newark**. It was a lively and spirited affair, with lots of bands and marchers in attendance. Welcome back!

Gospel music on the move to the other shore
The Easter Sunday concert, in Newark was the starting point of a venture that will spread gospel music abroad.



Reverend Timothy Burgess, at left, pastor of the White Rock Baptist Church, meets with radio host Herman Amis, recently.

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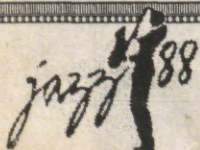


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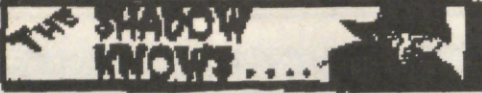
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Will somebody please tell that woman who hangs out at Grove and William Street in East Orange, that she is too fat to wear short skirts or tight sweats when she bends over she looks like a wide body 747 jet from the rear. She thinks all of the men are admiring her, but they really think she looks like a big balloon trying to escape from a small bag ... Remember Miss, three into two don't go.

I wish somebody would tell the "Shadow" just what does that long-haired so-called preacher over in New York does in between police shootings. Does he have a church? Does he ever hold rallies when there is nothing going on that doesn't draw the media and the TV. Cameras? I only see him when someone gets shot then he becomes the "family advisor" and calls for a protest. It seems to me he should be doing something else in between times, like rallying the kids and trying to stop them from stealing cars and getting into trouble with the law, he should spend his spare time preventing tragedy, rather than wait until it happens and then demonstrating, wise up dude!!

The Shadow has a question for you. How can you tell you are in the ghetto? Here are 10 ways

1. If you see trash, like White Castle boxes and potato chip bags on the street.
2. If you hear loud music coming from cars and buildings, mostly rapp music with cursing.
3. Hear children and adults screaming to the top of their lungs across the street and at each other.
4. Cars doing 50 in a 25 mile speed zone.
5. If you hear police and fire sirens at least once every half hour and ambulance sirens every 15 mins.
6. If you see young brothers standing on the 4 corners during school hours with nothing to do but waste time.
7. When you see abandoned cars rusting away in people back yards waiting for a miracle to happen.
8. When you see shower curtains up at the windows and no front door on the house.
9. If you see both men and women standing in a vacant dirty lot drinking alcoholic beverages out of a brown paper bag.
10. And if you notice at least three abandoned burnt out houses within a three block area.

Then you know you are in the ghetto - but remember ghettos are not born that way. It took years and years and generations of people to make them like that, and even the Projects were "new" once.

And speaking of the projects, my hat is off to Mrs. S. W. who lives in one of the worst Projects in the East Ward. She keeps her home and children spotless and she doesn't mind sweeping up other people's dirt. She is very rare, and deserves a medal for her efforts. Well, *The Shadow* has to "bounce". Till next time, "later".

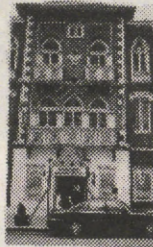
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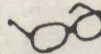
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FALLING LEAVES

MILTON P. JONES,
labor negotiator, 77

He was a negotiator and advocate for labor and contracts in the mayor's office in East Orange from 1984 through 1988. Before then, he had been a welder with Otis Elevator, Harrison, from 1956 through 1979.

Known as Prince Jones, he played trumpet in the Newark area with the Sultans of Swing and the Duke Anderson Band. He was a member of the Umpires and Black Golfers associations, both of Essex County.

VERTEE MURRAY NEAL
teacher, community organizer

Vertee was a member of the M.A.M.A.'s Inc. (Mamas Advocating Mastery Academic Success), a non-profit organization formed to provide scholarships for high school students to continue their studies and bring knowledge back to the community.

JOE WILLIAMS,
jazz and blues singer, 80

He sang as a regular with Count Basie Band from 1954 to 1961 and became an international star. After the big band era, Williams continued to perform with small groups, and in 1985 he won a Grammy Award for best jazz vocal performance for his album "Nothin' But The Blues."

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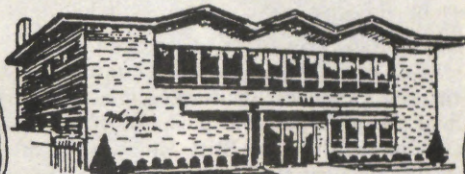
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Strictly JAZZ!

By JOE THOMAS

One of the most exhilarating things I hear in some R&B - Pop Music, is the combining of the aforementioned music with Jazz. It is sometimes referred to as "fusion" the reason I feel the joy I do is because it takes the music to another level.

As a young man I was blessed to experience jazz at it's best, with almost all of the "Giants" either coming to Newark's Adams Theatre, The Key Club, Cadillac Club (later known as Sparky J's) the Playbill, The Front Room and many other places. I could also go to New York to see them.

Before I go any further I must mention, Frederick's Lounge. It was there at a "Jam session" I had the unforgettable pleasure of sharing the bandstand with Sonny Stitt. He is one of the very best saxophonists that ever picked up a horn.

Sonny gave me some "pointers" and told me the "do's" and "don'ts" in the performing of jazz. Another outstanding "Giant" told me, when I was just starting out, the perils of playing in "Bars". He said, "Little Joe," if you start playing in these places, you'll never get out of them. He was then and is still now one of Newark's "Pride and Joy". His name the incomparable Mr. James Moody.

I remember going to the Adams Theatre to see Moody when he came there with "Dizzy" Gillespie's bid band. All of our "chests" were "out"!! He played a "riff" that went like this: "shoo pee dee-skew wee shah dah"!! Seems to me that a lot of other tenor players "picked-up" on that phrase and made good use of it, along with their own creative innovations, of course.

One of the things about jazz musicians in the past that moved me most is that they never forgot their musical "roots". Specifically, they would combine the blues, gospel and a "light" to "heavy" R&B ingredient. Some of the latter day jazz artists seem to engage in that which is more "technical". But, back there it was a "propeller-driven" today it is "jet-propulsion". I don't have a real problem with some of the "projections" today as this is another day and jazz is being kept alive by these contemporary ideas. I do believe however that in order to properly commemorate the founders of jazz we must not sever the ties that bind.

Luv ya all. JOE THOMAS

WBGO'S RADIO SERIES CELEBRATES THE LEGACY OF DUKE ELLINGTON

WBGO 88.3 FM commemorates the life and career of Duke Ellington with The Duke Ellington Centennial Radio Project WBGO, in association with executive producer Jim



Luce and The Luce Group Inc., produced the nationally distributed radio project with major funding from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. The series airs on WBGO 88.3 FM Saturdays, 7:00 a.m., and on various public radio stations throughout the country.

Hosted by Stanley Crouch, the 13-part series features recordings, historical transcripts, interviews and commentary with musicians, historians and critics.

Ellington has had such an influence on music," said Luce. "Producing this show is almost a sacred experience. It is a special opportunity to convey the life and music of this unique genius to the world. As Yusef Lateef said, 'A genius opens the door, and when he dies, he closes it. There will not be any other Duke Ellington's.'"

Program Schedule

04/24 Ellington's World
Pianist Toshiko Akiyoshi and others discuss and illustrate Ellington's blending of Classical, Latin and African music in Ellington's World. As an ambassador of jazz, he produced such memorable works as the Liberian Suite, the Nutcracker Suite, and the Far-East Suite.

05/01 Ellington The Pianist
Explores Duke's keyboard artistry, his originality and the influence he had on his disciples, including Randy Wilson and Thelonius Monk. Weston, John Lewis, Toshiko Akiyoshi, and Dave Burrell will play examples of the Ellington piano sound.

05/08 The Extended Works of Duke Ellington
Explores the composer's longer compositions. Though many of these pieces, such as *Creole Rhapsody*, *Reminiscing in Tempo*, *Diminuendo and Crescendo in Blue*, and *The Tattooed Bride*, remain controversial, they contain some of his most profound work.

The Queen

COMES HOME



Rita Owens, the Queen's mom.

The inimitable Queen Latifah – actor, host, manager, executive, entrepreneur, label owner, author, and rapper – returned to her roots and hometown, Newark, recently. Dedicated to both her craft and her audience, Queen Latifah has become one of Hollywood's fastest-rising young stars. Latifah was the distinguished lecturer sponsored by the Montclair Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, recently at NJPAC, and Rita Owens, Vice President of Flavor Unit Entertainment and Educator at Irvington High School (Latifah's mom) was the guest of honor.

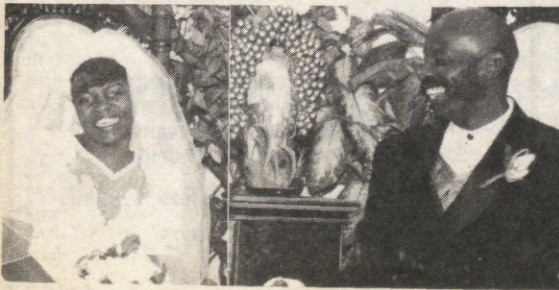


Councilwoman Carol Clark, Queen Latifah accepting a presentation from a Delta Sigma Theta Sorority member.



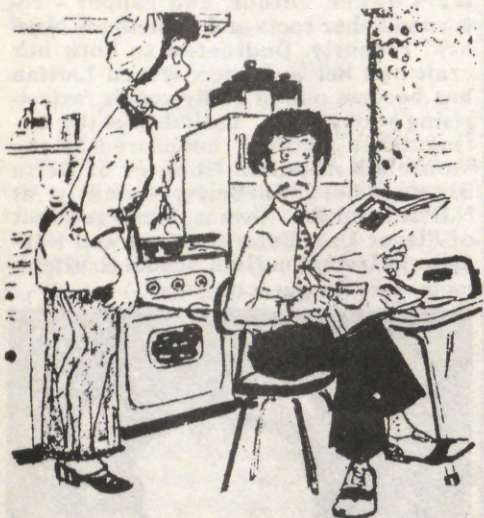
The Montclair Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., with Rita Owens and the Queen.

WEDDING BELLS RANG for TOYA McKNIGHT and ARTHUR TUCKER. Best Man was Garnet Tucker, and Bridesmaid Chris McKnight. The wedding was held at the Christian Bible Center in Bloomfield, NJ, and the reception was at Snuffy's Pantanges on Routh 22, in Westfield, NJ. Congratulations!



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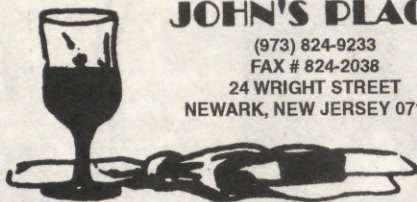
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